

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 1 NOVEMBER 2014

MISSION STATEMENT: The Community Coalition for Social Justice is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting the principles of social, environmental, and economic justice and respect for all persons. We oppose discrimination and hate-motivated violence in Morgantown and surrounding communities.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP: Our next meeting will be at Panera's on Patteson Drive on Monday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the back room.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at attfield@comcast.net. Please contact any of the steering committee members to volunteer to help and to share your suggestions for our work or e-mail us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com. Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. We have added PayPal to our website so you can join or donate by credit card if you wish to do that.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2015 CELEBRATION: Our theme for the 2015 celebration on January 19 will be "The Road to the Vote" to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and other milestones in winning the right to vote for all citizens. Please plan to join us at 2:00 pm that day for this annual free event at the Metropolitan Theatre on High Street in Morgantown. And please let us know if you'd like to help plan the celebration.

We will again be collecting items for the Scotts Run Backpack Feeding Program that serves students in area schools who need food for the weekend. Please check our web site closer to the date of the event for a list of suggested items.

We also again thank Main Street Morgantown for co-sponsoring this event with us and assisting with publicity, as well as the City of Morgantown, which provides the funding to allow us to rent the Metropolitan Theatre.

CCSJ PROMOTING TEACHING TOLERANCE MATERIALS: We want to reach out to community groups to see if they are interested in using the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance materials. These are available free of charge to educators, which can include leaders of youth groups, not just school teachers. Those using the materials could order them online at www.tolerance.org, and we would pay for the postage. If you are interested in this project, please email us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com.

BUMPER STICKERS FOR SALE: CCSJ has diversity-related bumper stickers for sale. The large ones (Celebrate Diversity and Coexist) are \$3.50 each, the "Olympic circles" one is \$2.00, and the "Teach Peace" one is \$1.50, which includes postage. You can also buy the bumper stickers on September 9th.

If you'd like one, please send a check made payable to CCSJ to PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160, and indicate which one you'd like.

LOCAL NEWS

MON COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER EVENT: The second annual Art & Advocacy Event is scheduled for Friday, November 7th at Arts Mon on High Street. The event will feature live and silent auctions of local artwork, and artwork by children at the MCCAC and around the community. The event is free and open

to the public! Live music, free food and free drinks will be provided. E-mail mccac_dc@comcast.net with questions or if you'd like to help!



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting of the commission will be Thursday, November 20th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Building Conference Room on Spruce Street. You can get copies of the agendas and minutes for the commission meetings at <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/>.

Don Spencer and Bob Jones presented the results of the commission's survey of area human rights needs at the Morgantown City Council Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, October 28. Their report will be available in the future on the City's web site, and we will link to it from our web site.

WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES TO HOST ANNUAL PEACE TREE CEREMONY NOV. 18. Here's the press releases from WVU: The Native American Studies Program at West Virginia University will host the annual Peace Tree Ceremony on Nov. 18 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the WVU Peace Tree on the downtown campus between Martin and Elizabeth Moore halls.

In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved indoors to the Mountainlair ballrooms.

The event is free and open to the public.

The guests of honor for the ceremony include Boe Harris-Nakakakena, (Turtle Mountain Chippewa); and Ragghi Rain Calentine (Eastern Cherokee descent). The two cultural educators promote social justice, health, cultural awareness, and inclusiveness through traditional music, storytelling, and dance.

Harris-Nakakakena is a Northern Traditional and Jingle Dress dancer who plays Native American flute. She has performed throughout the country, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and at numerous NATO military bases throughout Europe.

"As a granddaughter of strong Indian women, my heart and spirit know no other journey than to follow the traditions that flowed through the souls, spirits, and lives of those women who walked before me," Harris-Nakakakena said.

Calentine is a gifted storyteller who says she helps teach and inspire "people who are on the edge of life, including those in prison, children in crisis, and others." Her work is aimed at helping individuals break the cycle of unhealthy decision-making that puts them and their families at risk.

Both women are actively engaged in community development with the Nanticoke Indian Association of Southern Delaware and travel throughout the country providing workshops, training, and retreats.

The first WVU Peace Tree was planted in 1992 by Chief Leon Shenandoah, Tadodaho of the Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy, and Chippewa Chief Robert TallTree.

While in Morgantown the honored guests will give an interactive Native American music, dance, and storytelling presentation on Sunday, November 16 from 2:00-3:30 at the J. Gluck Theater, Mountainlair. Families are encouraged to attend this free public event and enjoy an apple cider and cookie reception and children's literature exhibit provided by the performance co-sponsors, the Morgantown Public Library & Shelley A. Marshall Foundation.

Sponsors for the week's events include The WVU School of Social Work, WVU's Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, The College of Education and Human Services—Office for Diversity & Global Initiatives, The Carolyn Reyer Fund for Native American Studies, and the WVU Nursery School.

For more information, contact Bonnie Brown at 304-293-4626 or bonnieM.Brown@mail.wvu.edu.

FOR LOVERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT – FROM THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER:

Wednesday November 12, 6:30 pm, Carmike Cinemas, Morgantown Mall- The movie "Moving Mountains" is playing in Morgantown. This showing is dependent on having a sufficient number of reservations made by November 5 at www.tugg.com/events/11622

The movie was filmed in West Virginia and tells the story of Trish Bragg of Mingo County, as she and her friends struggled for safe drinking water after a deep mine destroyed their wells.

Wednesday November 19, 6:00 pm, Green Night at Morgantown Public Library, 373 Spruce Street - The Green-Network Plan is in the initial stages of development by a group of the area's green space organization volunteers, the West Virginia Land Trust, and city and county representatives. This Green Night Community Dialogue in Meeting Room A is the first in a series of meetings to engage local citizens and experts in green space and alternative transportation in generating ideas and opportunities and begin working on improving the area's green space and alternative transportation network infrastructure. For more information, call or write Pam Cubberly at 703-218-5417 or Pamela@Cubberly.net or Rick Landenberger at 304-293-9468 or rick@wvlandtrust.org.

STATE-WIDE NEWS

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA GALA IS NOVEMBER 15: "The C&G is The Conference & Gala is West Virginia's LGBT event of the year and this year's celebratory focus will be on how to Bring It Home. From marriage equality to non-discrimination, we're almost there!"

This year will be particularly important because, according to Fairness, "This isn't your average wedding reception! Each of the plaintiffs from West Virginia's case for marriage equality will be in attendance along with fellow Fairness supporters, dignitaries, advocates, and allies. Join us November 15th, as we celebrate marriage equality in the Mountain State!

"The daytime conference will take place at the Charleston Civic Center beginning at 9 am, and the evening gala will be held at the West Virginia Culture Center at the State Capitol Complex starting at 6 pm. Our preliminary schedules for both events should be complete by the end of September."

Speakers and panelists include Beth Littrell, Senior Attorney at the Southern Regional Office of Lambda Legal; Andrew Schneider, executive director of Fairness West Virginia; David M. Fryson, Esq., WVU vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion; Rev. Jim Lewis, Episcopal clergyperson; Ria Tabacco Mar, ACLU LGBT and AIDS Project; Sara Bird, Mountain State Justice; Marcus Fioravante, West Virginian transgender college student and activist; and Cynthia DeVille, West Virginian transgender advocate and small business owner.

Registration information is available from the Fairness West Virginia web site at www.fairnesswv.org.

END OF WEST VIRGINIA MARRIAGE BAN: West Virginia's marriage ban for same-sex couples ended on October 9. Three days earlier, Fairness West Virginia posted a longer version of this release on its web site:

STUDY: ENDING WEST VIRGINIA MARRIAGE BAN MEANS JOBS AND A \$9 MILLION BOOST TO STATE ECONOMY

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – October 6 – A new study released today by UCLA's Williams Institute shows that West Virginia's economy is missing out on millions of dollars and potential jobs due to the state's marriage ban for same-sex couples.

According to the report's estimates, more than 1,424 same-sex couples would choose to marry over the next three years, bringing a potential \$9 million dollars to West Virginia's economy, with \$5.8 million of that in the first year alone.

The report also predicts that up to 82 jobs would be created in the Mountain State due to the increased spending for same-sex couples' weddings and celebrations.

WEST VIRGINIA CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY OFFERS SUMMIT ON RACE MATTERS IN APPALACHIA: The Summit will offer a unique opportunity for people from throughout West Virginia to participate in a constructive, in-depth conversation about the complicated history of race relations and racial inequality in the state.

Examine the causes and consequences of structural inequities that exist across social, political, education and financial systems and how those inequities negatively affect everyone. Learn how, working together, we can build a community that improves the well-being of all West Virginians.

Monday, November 10: screening of "Cracking the Codes: Social Determinants of Racial Inequality" at the Culture Center at the State Capitol from 5-8PM. Includes reception with heavy appetizers.

Tuesday, November 11: workshop discussions about this powerful movie at Four Points Sheraton in downtown Charleston from 8AM-3PM. Breakfast and lunch served.

The event will also feature keynote speakers, including Dr. Gail Christopher, Vice President for Policy and Senior Advisor, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Mike Wenger, author of *My Black Family, My White Privilege*, and senior fellow at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, DC.

Registration fee of \$25 covers meals for both days. **The registration deadline is November 3.** For those registering later, please contact Linda Frame at lframe@wvpolicy.org.

INTERFAITH HOLY DAYS IN NOVEMBER 2014

For Native Americans, November marks Gwilatkw, the blanket season of the first snow, in which the Earth covers herself for her winter sleep.

Saturday, November 1

- All Saints Day – Christianity [Western churches]

A commemoration of the lives of people, known and unknown, whose holiness and compassion toward others represent the best Christian virtues. In some Christian traditions, the following day is reserved for intercessions for the dead and is known as All Souls' Day. Latino/a people in North and Central America mark these days in connection with celebrations of Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead.

Sunday, November 2

- Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I – Rastafari

Because Rastafarians recognize Haile Selassie (born Ras Tafari Makonnen in 1892; died in 1975) as an incarnation of God and a messiah who will lead the peoples of Africa and the African Diaspora to freedom, peace, and prosperity, his coronation day as Emperor of Ethiopia in 1930 is remembered as a major festival.

Monday, November 3

- 'Āshūrā' – Islam

Sunni Muslims celebrate this day as the anniversary of Noah's departure from the Ark on Mount Ararat and the freedom of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Shi'i Muslims mark this date as the anniversary of the martyrdom of Husayn, the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, in 680 C.E.

Tuesday, November 4

- Qudrat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the thirteenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "power."

Thursday, November 6

- Kartika Purnima or Dev Diwali – Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism

A holy festival celebrated on the full moon day or 15th lunar day of Kartika, which falls in November or December. It is also called the “Diwali [festival of light] of the gods.”

Wednesday, November 12

- Birth of the Bahá’u’lláh — Bahá’í

Anniversary of the birth of the Bahá’u’lláh (“Glory of God”), the founder of the Bahá’í faith, in Tehran, Persia [modern-day Iran], in 1817 C.E. Devout followers suspend work on this day; some begin their observance of the day on the previous day’s sundown.

Friday, November 14

- The Advent (or Nativity) Fast – Christianity (Eastern churches)

The beginning of a forty-day vegetarian fast in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) commences at sundown. For Orthodox Christians who follow the old calendar, this fast begins two weeks later.

Friday, November 21

- Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Christianity (Catholic churches)
- Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This day commemorates the entrance of the three-year-old Virgin Mary into the temple at Jerusalem to receive an education and begin her life of absolute dedication to God. According to some apocryphal writings, Mary also entered the Temple’s Holy of Holies on this occasion, thus becoming the first and only woman ever to enter that sacred space.

Sunday, November 23

- Christ the King Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)

This feast day commemorates Jesus’ teaching that he will return at the end of time to judge humanity. In the Western Christian liturgical year, this is the last Sunday; the following Sunday (i.e., the first Sunday of Advent) marks the beginning of a new year.

- Qawl – Bahá’í

The beginning of the fourteenth month of the Bahá’í year, meaning “speech.”

Monday, November 24

- Gurū Nanak’s Birthday – Sikhism

Sikhs commonly celebrate the birthday of their founder, Gurū Nanak Dev Ji, on the full moon day of Kartik, even though the guru’s biographers record his birth on April 15, 1469 C.E. A poet and mystic, Guru Nanak wrote 974 hymns that are included in the Sikh scriptures, known as the Gurū Granth Sahib.

- Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Gurū Tegh Bahadur Ji – Sikhism

This day commemorates the martyrdom of the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurūs (1621-1675 C.E.). He is remembered for defending the Sikh faith, as well as the rights of Hindus and the cause of religious liberty.

Wednesday, November 26

- Day of the Covenant – Bahá'í

A celebration of the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the son of Bahá'u'lláh, as the Center of the Covenant in New York City in 1912 C.E. Devout followers begin their remembrance the preceding evening and do not suspend work on this day.

Thursday, November 27

- Thanksgiving Day

This national holiday was first officially observed after a proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, in 1863 C.E. Establishing the fourth Thursday of November for the observance, Lincoln wrote that “[The blessings enjoyed in this country] are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People.”

Friday, November 28

- Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá – Bahá'í

The commemoration of the death of the Center of the Covenant in Haifa, Palestine, in 1921 C.E. Devout followers begin their remembrance the preceding evening and are allowed to work on this day.

Sunday, November 30

- First Sunday of Advent (hope) – Christianity (Western churches)

The first of four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day (the name Advent derives from the Latin word for “coming,” since Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth comes as God’s anointed). Each Sunday in Advent is associated with a particular virtue: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

If you want more information about any of these holy days, please contact UCSF Medical Center Spiritual Care Services at 415-353-1941 (Rev. Dr. Peter Yuichi Clark)

Our thanks to the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, the Multifaith Action Society of British Columbia (Canada), BBC’s Religion Website, Peel Schools District Board (Mississauga, Ontario, Canada), the Arizona State University Provost’s Office, the NCCJ of the Piedmont Triad, and www.interfaithcalendar.org